

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, UR, US

SUBJECT: US-USSR OCEANS AGREEMENT: POSTPONEMENT OF VISIT
UNDER WORKING GROUP "MARINE FOULING AND BENTHIC COMMUNITIES"
(06.0505): DR. RUTH TURNER AND MR. WALTER NELSON

REF: (A) STATE 169892, (B) MOSCOW 10514, (C) STATE 102926

1. WORKING PROGRAM OF MOSCOW MEETING OF BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTIVITY AND BIOCHEMISTRY (06.05) JOINT WORKING GROUP, JANUARY 1977, CALLED FOR EXCHANGE OF TWO U.S. AND ONE SOVIET SCIENTIST IN SUMMER 1977. TWO U.S. SCIENTISTS WERE TO PARTICIPATE IN JOINT COOPERATIVE RESEARCH IN VLADIVOSTOK, MOSCOW, ODESSA AND LENINGRAD--ON SUBJECT OF MARINE FOULING ORGANISMS.

2. DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN WORKING GROUP MEMBER DR. JOHN COSTLOW OF DUKE UNIVERSITY, DR. A. V. ZHIRMUNSKIY OF FAR
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EAST INSTITUTE OF MARINE BIOLOGY, VLADIVOSTOK, AND DR. SKARLATO OF ZOOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF SOVIET ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, LENINGRAD, AND SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN ZHIRMUNSKIY AND DR. TURNER WHILE TURNER WAS IN NAKHODKA IN JANUARY RESULTED IN DESIGNATION OF AND INFORMAL INVITATION TO TURNER AND NELSON.

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3. DR. VASKOVSKY OF FAR EAST INSTITUTE OF MARINE BIOLOGY OF USSR ACADEMY OF SCIENCES WAS TO BE SOVIET EXCHANGE. HIS VISIT TO DUKE UNIVERSITY POSTPONED AS VASKOVSKY WAS TO TRAVEL TO SOUTH CAROLINA WITH SOVIET DELEGATES TO MAY MEETING OF US-USSR JOINT WORKSHOP ON "PHYSIO-BIOCHEMICAL BASES FOR PRODUCTIVITY, ADAPTATION OF MARINE ORGANISMS," PER REFTEL C. THIS WORKSHOP CANCELLED AT LAST MINUTE BY SOVIETS AND HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 17 WHEN, PRESUMABLY, VASKOVSKY WILL COME TO U.S. FOR DUKE UNIVERSITY PROGRAM.

4. ARRANGEMENTS FOR TURNER/NELSON VISIT APPEARED FIRM UNTIL RECENT AND UNUSUAL CORRESPONDENCE LAPSE FROM ZHIRMUNSKIJ IN REPLYING TO COSTLOW'S REQUEST THAT INVITATIONS BE SENT TO SOVIET EMBASSY WASHINGTON FOR VISA PURPOSES. COSTLOW THEN ADVISED BY ZHIRMUNSKIJ THAT VISIT MUST BE POSTPONED UNTIL SEPTEMBER 1977 OR SUMMER 1978 FOR FINANCIAL REASONS.

5. MOST COMMUNICATIONS ON THIS MATTER HAVE INVOLVED INTERNATIONAL CABLE/LETTERS FROM PRINCIPALS. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES EMBASSY'S POSITION RE LACK OF INFORMATION AND HAS PASSED ON EMBASSY'S NEED FOR TELEX MESSAGES COPIES TO OCEANS AGREEMENT SECRETARIAT.

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6. DR. TURNER MUST BE ADVISED WHETHER OR NOT VISIT WILL TAKE PLACE BY NOON MONDAY, JULY 25, WASHINGTON TIME.
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